4   encrypting said data using said graphical image as an encryption key, wherein said

5   encryption key is formed from a character set, and

6   providing the capability to utilize said key for gaining access to said data.

1   7. (Amended) The method recited in claim 6 wherein said encryption key is formed from a

2   unique set of passwords selected from the character set, and utilizes a grid forming a matrix of

3   squares.

---

1   20. (Amended) The system as recited in claim 12 wherein at least seven of the ten characters are

2   consonants.

---

1   27. (Amended) A method for securing data comprising the steps of:

2   creating a graphical image; and

3   masking said data using said graphical image as key, wherein the graphical image is

4   formed from typographical symbols.

---

1   43. (Amended) A method for accessing an apparatus using a password

2   comprising the steps of:

3   masking said password in a graphical image;

4   displaying the graphical image; and

5   re-constructing said password using said graphical image and input from a user.

---

49. (Amended) A secure device for allowing access using a password, the device comprising:

2

means for masking said password in a graphical image;

means for displaying said graphical image; and

means for accepting the re-construction of said password using the graphical image and

input from a user.